



The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society's

EXCITER

September 2008

Issue No. 450

LOOK INSIDE FOR DETAILS:

- The RARS General Meeting is the 1st Tuesday of the month.
- The RARS net meets every night @ 8 pm on 146.64.
- The RARS Technical and Trader's net is Saturdays @ 8:30 pm or following the RARS net.
- RARS meets for a monthly dinner on the 2nd Tuesday of each month.

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Look for Some New Call Signs on the Radio!

Article by Virginia Enzor NC4VA, RARS Education Director

Twenty four excited students showed up at the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society's Technician license preparation class at the early hour of 8 am on Saturday, August 9, eager to absorb instruction provided by Mike Murphy WA4BPJ. At the end of the class at noon, they went home, some on overload, but ready for part two of the class on August 23.

During the introductions, folks were asked to share what prompted their interest in ham radio. A number of Cary CERT team members mentioned emergency communications support, as did quite a few folks from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Cassie Mentha mentioned her interest stemmed from having a dad and grandfather who are hams. Similarly, Rachel Ferrarini noted her mom and dad are hams and that getting her license has been a childhood dream. Alice Booth related that her husband dared her to get her license, while Glen Knightstep said his wife told him that he needed to get a hobby! Brian Hare responded that he had a friend who is a ham but the friend never lets him talk. Miley White, in management with Radio Shack, hoped the class would expand her knowledge, while Gavin Shutes indicated he is interested in community service.

At break during the first day, five students accepted the invitation of Virginia Enzor NC4VA to get on the air as third parties. Responding to a CQ, Frank Bridges AE4MY spoke with each party and encouraged their ham radio license pursuit.

Exams were administered by the RARSVE team headed by Joe White WA4GIR and Liz White KO4CK. Other participating VEs included Jim McRight KB4BZ, Dennis Mason AJ4HK, Virginia Enzor NC4VA, Julie Royster KI4OTM, Larry Royster KI4FYR, and Karl Bowman W4CHX. Seventeen of the weekend warriors took the exam and walked out with a CSCE for the Technician License. They were Alice Booth, Marc Duncan, Rachel Ferrarini, Bert Goodman, Brian Hare, Heidi Hoopes, Glen Knightstep, Cassie Mentha, Brandon Page, Lisa Page, Gavin Shutes, Ken Stark, Randy Stark, Jeff Stead, Miley White, Christian Woodard, and Katherine Youngbull. Two students attempted the General Class

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The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society

The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society, Inc. (RARS) was founded in 1969 and continues to serve and support the Amateur Radio community in the greater Triangle area. In 1999, the society incorporated a new RARS and obtained 501(c)(3) non-profit tax status.

The objectives of the club are to promote worldwide friendship through amateur radio; to be of public service by providing

radio communications in times of disaster, emergency, or civic need; to educate members in radio technique; and to provide training classes to assist in obtaining amateur radio licenses.

Anyone interested in amateur radio is eligible to apply for membership. Dues for regular licensed amateurs are \$18 per year (from July 1 through June 30). Additional immediate family mem-

bers pay \$5 each per year. Dues for licensed amateurs older than 59 or younger than 16 are \$12 per year. Dues for non-licensed associate members are \$9 per year. Applications for membership may be obtained from the treasurer or on the RARS website (RARS.org).



The Exciter

The *Exciter* is the official newsletter of the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society. It appears each month as a PDF on the RARS website at www.rars.org. Members receive email notification when the latest version is available. Please provide your email address to the Treasurer.

The *Exciter* welcomes articles, advertising, and other contributions. To submit a piece to the newsletter, please contact the Editor.

The views expressed in the *Exciter* are those of the individual authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Editor or RARS.

The Editor reserves the right to edit any and all pieces.

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QCWA QUARTERLY MEETING SEPT. 6 IN CLAYTON, NC

**Announcement by Chuck Littlewood K4HF,
ARRL Liaison**

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The Piedmont Chapter of the Quarter Century Wireless Association will hold its dinner meeting at 11:30 AM on Saturday, September 6, 2008 at McCall's BBQ & Seafood Restaurant in Clayton, NC, 10365 US 70 Hwy West (919-550-3877). This is our eastern-most meeting location for the year. ALL MEMBERS AND GUESTS are WELCOME. Local Chapter 126 website: <http://www.qsl.net/qcwa126>.

Directions: From west on I-40, get off at exit 306 and merge onto highway 70W and go about 7.3 miles east on 70. The restaurant is .1 miles past Advance Auto. Both are on the right side of the road. After the meeting, those going back west should exit through the restaurant rear parking lot to access a road that will put you at a traffic light at Hwy 70 to turn left and return west.

Program: Mac MacAulay WQ8U of Hillsborough, NC will present a program on IED's and radio-controlled mechanisms that control them and the electronic countermeasures that are being used to defeat them.

RARS General Meeting

Date: First Tuesday of each month

Location: Forest Hills Baptist Church

201 Dixie Trail

Raleigh, NC 27607

Time: People begin arriving at 7 pm. The meeting officially begins at 7:30 pm.

RARS Monthly Dinner

Join us on the 2nd Tuesday of each month for the RARS dinner. It's open to everyone: RARS members, non-members, friends, and family – feel free to bring your little ones!

Golden Corral @ 6129 Glenwood Avenue in Raleigh. Dinner begins at 6:30 pm.

RARS Repeaters in Raleigh

145.13 (82.5 PL)

146.64

444.525 (82.5 PL)

Join us for the nightly RARS net @ 8 pm on the 146.64. All hams holding a Technician class license or higher are invited to check in. We welcome both RARS and non-RARS members to the net.

VE Testing

The RARSVEs will accept walk-in testing at the February, May, August, and November RARS meetings; the RARSfest in April; the Cary Swapfest in July; the JARSfest in November; and following RARS license classes.

Please bring a photo ID, your current license, a copy of your current license, and any CSCEs you have for credit. Visit www.rars.org for more information.



July 2008 RARS Net Reports

Checkins: 477	Special Interest Nets:
Traffic: 44/35	Checkins: 96
Minutes: 784	Minutes: 480
Sessions: 31	Sessions: 12

Upcoming Hamfests

September 6	Greater Louisville Hamfest Shepherdsville, KY http://louisvillehamfest.com/
September 20 & 21	Virginia Beach Hamfest Virginia Beach, VA http://vahamfest.net/
September 26 & 27	TEN-TEC Factory Hamfest Sevierville, TN http://radio.tentec.com/Hamfest
October 3-5	QCWA International Convention Virginia Beach, VA http://qcwa-ch119.org/
October 4	Rock Hill Hamfest & Computer Expo Rock Hill, SC http://www.rockhillhamfest.com/

September

RARS Meeting

The September program
will be Portable
Communications by Bob
Starkenburg W4TTX.

September Birthdays

Jack	K4WFJ	9/2
Wilbur	WD4RDT	9/3
Andy	KD4FHF	9/4
Mary Jo	K4MJL	9/5
Lou	K4BYN	9/7
Don	N4APX	9/10
John	N4YRB	9/12
Sam	NC4SJ	9/13
Robin	K14LEC	9/13
Debra	KJ4AST	9/13
Al	KE4IUK	9/13
Matt	KJ4EVT	9/13
Ray	KF4AIB	9/14
Nick	W1GYF	9/16
Ken	N4ZBB	9/18
Sharon	KD4WTL	9/18
Ken	ND7N	9/20
Rod	K14LSN	9/20
Bob	NC4RW	9/20
Bob	KS4CB	9/24
John	KF4EUZ	9/25
Justin	K14WAF	9/25

Welcome to RARS!

Brian Atkins	KJ4GBT
Dan Coyle	KJ4FKB
Todd Nichols	AG4AY

Public Service Opportunities

Information supplied by John Snellen AI4RT,
RARS Public Service Director

Looking to get more involved in your community? Want to practice those radio skills? Satisfy both of these goals by volunteering at one of the upcoming public service events!

September 13 & 14: The 2008 MS Ride in New Bern, NC. To volunteer, email Bruce Arnold (brucen8uty@gmail.com) and copy Dick Orander (kd4isc@arrl.net) on the email. In subject line be sure to include "MS Ride." For more information about the event, check out the MS website at www.bikenct.nationalmssociety.org.

There are many more opportunities coming this fall, and we're always looking for hams to help out. More details and volunteer sign-up information can be found on links from the ham public service calendar at www.hampublicservice.org. Questions about public service events may be directed to the RARS Public Service Director at ai4rt@hotmail.com.

Date	Event	Location
September 13 @ 7am	Red Cross Generator Posse	Wake County ARC
September 13	Leukemia & Lymphoma Light the Night Walk	Downtown Raleigh
September 18	Leukemia & Lymphoma Light the Night Walk	Downtown Durham
September 27	ADA Step out for Diabetes Walk	RTP
October 18-19	Easter Seals Ride Without Limits	Wake Forest and beyond
November 2	City of Oaks Raleigh Marathon	Raleigh

Look for Some New Call Signs on the Radio! (Continued from page 6)

exam also walked out with a CSCE for that license as well; way to go Frank Greco and Rahul Deshpande! As a side note, four folks that did not take the class came to the exam session. Two, Mark Hoopes and Gary Orlando, passed both the Tech and General Class License exams; Bill Ruggirello passed the Technician, General, and Extra Class exams all in one sitting! Melvin Simler KD0DOD who took the RARS Tech Class last summer returned to upgrade from General to Extra Class.

Congratulations to all! We look forward to hearing our new hams on the radio soon!

A special note of thanks goes to Steve Ferrarini KJ4BX who arranged the use of the First Alliance Church building for the Tech class.

Pending the location of a site, a General license preparation class is tentatively scheduled for the fall. Details will follow shortly. New techs, how about it? Ready to upgrade to General class?



Clockwise from top left: Randy Stark volunteered to be the first student to talk third party on the radio. Frank Greco was a natural while the rest of the class observed. The class listened intently to instruction by Mike Murphy WA4PBJ. Folks focused on the exam questions intently. Bill Ruggirello passed the Tech, General, and Extra class exams at one sitting!

Minutes of the RARS General Meeting on August 5, 2008

The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society held its general meeting on Tuesday, August 5, 2008 at Forest Hills Baptist Church. There were XX members and guests present.

President Selene KG4RMT called the meeting to order at 7:35 PM. She welcomed everyone to the meeting. Selene announced that VE testing was being conducted in the other room and anyone interested in taking the exam should move there immediately. VE testing will also be given on the 3rd Saturday in Smithfield at the Red Cross Building.

Visitors Rod KJ4DNS and his son Andrew were introduced. Then Mark KJ4ECJ was introduced.

The July minutes of the general meeting were approved as printed in the Exciter.

Treasurer Greg KE4PAX presented the treasurer's report. We have 174 members paid up at this time. He will send out renewal notices in a few days.

VP Rick KB4TKQ had no report but indicated that the September program would be presented by W4TTX on portable communications.

The following announcements were made:

- The Tech Class license class will be given on August 9 & 23 at the First Alliance Church. There are already 20 students signed up. The class is open to any interested party but preregistration is required. Email NC4VA at nc4va@arrl.net.
- On August 20, there will be a SKYWARN dinner at the Golden Coral on Glenwood Ave. There will be a guest speaker. All are invited.
- The Piedmont Chapter #126 of the Quarter Century Wireless Association will hold its meeting on September 6 in Clayton at the McCall's BBQ. The program will be on wireless IED's and the electronic countermeasures being developed to defeat them.
- The RARS dinner will be on August 12 at the Golden Coral on Glenwood Ave. All are invited.
- The RARS Board meeting will be on August 19th at the Triangle Radio Reading Service on Six Forks Rd.
- The October meeting (the auction) will be held at the First Alliance Church. This move is due to the need for additional space for the auction.
- Our webmaster is getting married and will be unavailable until September 1.
- August 9 is the Fayetteville Hamfest.
- August 30 & 31 is the Shelby Hamfest in Dallas, NC.
- Neal N4HAF announced that we earned 9762 points at Field Day.
- Gary KN4AQ then played a short video on Field Day 2008.

Public Service Chair John AI4RT advised that the MS bike ride would be in New Bern on September 13 & 14. Send KD4ISC and email if you can volunteer. Hotel space in New Bern is limited. There are many other public service events so go to rars.org and click on public service.

Chuck K4HF reminded everyone that the State Fair is coming October 16-26. It will be one day longer this year. He does not have the info yet, but volunteers will be needed to man the Red Cross radios.

Survey Chair Ken KI4OTO advised that the survey is on the web. The survey includes items of general ham interest. He thanked Hank K4HM for getting the software working.

The door prize drawings were won by Rick KB4TKQ, Karl W4CHY, Larry KG4FIQ, and Don NJ2E. Greg KE4PAX won but stated that he already had the same items that remained and passed his winnings to the next person drawn.

VP Rick KB4TKQ then introduced our speaker for the night, Johnny (the Shadow) Mayfield WA9SZL. Johnny then delved into a technical and entertaining presentation on power supplies. He covered basic rectifier circuits, regulation, variable output, filter bridges, ripple, switched mode, efficiency, pulse width modulation, capacitors, high power vacuum tubes and using transformers out of old microwave ovens. Quote for the night: "All constants are variable." Once again, we were treated to an excellent program.

President Selene KG4RMT closed the meeting at 9:02 and invited everyone to join for supper.

Minutes of the RARS Board of Directors Meeting on July 15, 2008

The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society held its Board meeting on Tuesday, July 15, 2008 at the Triangle Radio Reading Service. The following people were present: Selene KG4RMT, Hank K4HM, Virginia NC4VA, John AI4RT, Neal N4HAF, Chuck K4HF, Gary KN4AQ, Ken KI4OTO, Charlie WB4DCM, and two visitors Jack N6UYB and Mike KB7NLA.

President Selene KG4RMT called the meeting to order at 7:08 PM. The minutes of the last Board meeting were approved as corrected. A corrected copy will be sent to Board members. President Selene then discussed the format of the general membership meeting. This past month, July, the business portion was over and the program begun by 8:00 PM. She expressed the opinion that the announcements were important and should continue. If anyone hears a complaint, please let her know.

VP Rick KB4TKQ was not present so President Selene made his report. The program for the next meeting will be on power supplies by WA9SZL. Contributions for refreshments are up and covered the cost for July. No word yet from the county about use of their facility for our October and December meetings.

Treasurer Greg KE4PAX was not present but sent his report. Last fiscal year we had 275 members. So far this year, we have 158 that have paid their current dues. RARSfest appears to have generated a profit. Financial Review Committee has not met.

Virginia NC4VA reported that the Education Committee has a Technician Class set up for August 9 and 23 at the First Alliance Church on Buffalo Road. The exam will be given at the conclusion of the second class. Cost is \$25 which includes the manual and \$14 for the exam. The General Class is not quite ready.

Webmaster Steve KB4HDQ was not present however Hank reported that Steve is due to get married soon and will be unavailable until approximately September 1, 2008. Hank will be available to make updates in Steve's absence. Hank also ran a report on hits on our website. There is lots of activity just prior to the hamfest and just prior to field day. Noon is the most active time followed by 4:00-5:00. Repeater information is the most popular page.

Field Day Chair Neal N4HAF reported that we got 9,752 points. That is better than we did in 2007. Several stations got almost 1,000 contacts.

President Selene KG4RMT reported that VE exams will be given at the Cary Swapfest on Saturday, July 19th. Exams will also be given at the August RARS meeting.

Public Service Chair John AI4RT reported that the July 4th bike run was a good event. The next event will be the MS Bike Run in Bern Bern on September 13th & 14th. Nothing scheduled for August (so charge your batteries and get ready).

RARSfest Chair Hank K4HM reports that we still have no date for the 2009 hamfest. The first committee meeting is normally in September! John AI4RT is the presumptive next RARSfest chair.

FM Repeaters/Public Relations Chair Gary KN4AQ reported that only Channel 14 showed up for field day. Congressman Etheridge was present. The UHF repeater is not back yet. Gary then discussed a crossband issue
(Continued on next page)

that we had on 146.64 a few days ago. Jack N6UYB then commented that he had owned six repeaters in California and would be glad to assist.

President Selene stated that RARS would be assisting with the Amateur Radio on International Space Station (ARISS) program. Jeff AC4ZO will chair. Enloe Magnetic School will be working with us on this project. It was commented that the ARISS program contacted us, which was quite unique.

Survey Committee Ken KI4OTO and Hank K4HM will work together to develop a questionnaire to put on the web.

Old Business

- We have not received any info from Wake County about the possibility of using their facility for our October (auction) and December (Christmas) meetings. In the meantime, we will have to stay with the current plan of using the First Alliance Church.
- No one has come forth to chair a Fox Hunt special interest group.
- The club inventory list has not been done. Treasurer Greg KE4PAX was to work on that but is not present at this meeting.

New Business

- President Selene KG4RMT suggested that the club purchase a digital recorder for the secretary to facilitate minutes of the meetings. The secretary will look into the issue and report back at the next Board meeting.
- Next month we will have to appoint a nomination committee for those club officers whose term expires.

Comments

- Gary KN4AQ stated that QST did a review of his D-STAR video which was printed in the current issue of QST. He also reported that Jeff AC4ZO had renewed one of RARS' licenses.
- President Selene KG4RMT reported that she had received a call from a person who needed a headset from the 1930's. She put him in touch with Chuck K4HF who was able to accommodate him. Carl King, KU4HM had requested assistance with his antenna and David Crawford, KF4VXJ responded. Thanks David! Marshall Jones was looking for old radio equipment that had belonged to a local ham. Chuck K4HF was able to respond.

Meeting adjourned 8:10 PM.

Minutes by Charlie Swindell WB4DCM, RARS Secretary



The **RARS Technical & Trader's net** is held on Saturday evenings on the 146.64 after the 8 pm RARS net.

Amateur Radio Nets



The **VOIP Hurricane net** is held Sundays at 00:00 UTC on the 146.775 repeater with a tone of 88.5 (IRLP node 4260). For information about activation details, go to www.voipwx.net.

Please join us on the **Carolina 440 net** every Monday night at 7:30 pm. This ragchew net utilizes the Carolina 440 UHF Link Repeater System. Comprised of the Raleigh, Down East, and Coastal Wilmington link systems, there are currently 19 repeaters on the system, covering 21,168 square miles. For a list of these repeaters, please visit www.carolina440.net.



CAROLINA 440
UHF Link System
www.carolina440.net

Join us every evening at 8 pm on the 146.64 repeater for the **RARS Two Meter net**. You can give a ragchew, check in and out (this counts for our total numbers reported to the ARRL), make announcements, and pass traffic. We also offer National Traffic System traffic training. All licensed stations are welcomed to participate in the net as often as they can. This net is also a great way to learn about amateur radio if you are newly licensed!

The **PCTN (Piedmont Coastal Traffic Net)** meets every night at 9 pm on the 146.88. The purpose of the net is to handle/pass NTS formal messages. Amateur stations are encouraged to check-in and participate. The backup repeater is the 147.105 machine with a PL tone of 82.5.





Join the **Tarheel Short Wave Listening (SWL) Special Interest Group (SIG)** net on Monday evenings @ 9 pm on 146.64. We discuss all areas of radio monitoring and welcome your logs! We also have a SVWL/SIG meeting on the third Monday of the month in addition to our regular net.



The **Wake County ARES net** meets Thursdays around 2115 on the 146.88 repeater. We provide discussion and training for the implementation and provision of Emergency Communications for our served agencies, such as the American Red Cross and the local and state Emergency Operations Center. Please join us. www.wakeares.org.

Central Carolina SKYWARN

Please join us each Tuesday at 9:15 pm on the 146.88 repeater for the CCS net. On each net there are announcements, check-ins by county, and often a program or training spot. Check us out at www.centralcarolinaskywarn.net.



September 16:
"Tropical Climatology and Tropical Outlook for the Remainder of the Season" by NWS Warning Coordination Meteorologist Jeff Orrock K14KKX.



Same net – new name! The Mercury Amateur Radio Association Southeast 2 Meter net is becoming the **Apex Emergency Response Communications net (Apex ERC)**. The name change is effective March 30, 2008. The net will still meet at 9 pm Sunday evenings on the 146.64 repeater (temporarily). All stations are invited to participate in this net. The organization provides emergency communication support to The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. The purpose of this net is to assist ham radio operators in preparing to respond to emergencies, test their equipment, improve operating skills, pass traffic, and to provide those with a common interest an opportunity to meet.

The RARS

Exciter

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For information
about public service
opportunities, upcoming
hamfests, and more,
visit www.rars.org.